



# **ANTHONY J. STASKUNAS**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## **Assembly Bill 367 - "Safe in Schools Act"**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

Again, I would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing on AB 367.

To go along with increasing the penalties for violent crimes committed on school property, I feel that the act of trespassing anywhere upon school property, with the intent of provoking a breach of the peace, should be a crime in its own right.

Presently, we have a state law that any person entering or remaining in a school building under the circumstances tending to create or provoke a breach of the peace may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days or both. AB 367 would expand the protection of the law to school grounds and not just school buildings.

Under this bill, a person who intentionally goes onto school premises, without the consent of a person lawfully on the school premises, under circumstances tending to create or provoke a breach of the peace is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and could be charged a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or both. Persons entering school buildings would still be subject to the current penalty as this is a more serious breach of the peace and a far greater safety concern.

Non-students coming onto school grounds with the intent to cause violence or otherwise disrupt the learning environment should be actively discouraged. I feel that creating a new trespassing law to address this issue will deter some persons who wouldn't otherwise think twice about coming onto school property to join a fight or cause havoc.

I have crafted the language to allow for legal protests, if approved by a school district official, as schools are public property and the right for people to legally voice their position should not be deterred. This bill is designed to address the unacceptable practice of students calling in for 'reinforcements' from non-students during violent outbreaks and for other instances where non-students come onto school grounds to cause a disruption and interfere with the school's job of educating our students.